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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fiftieth session
Item 26 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 8 May 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Bandung, Indonesia, from 25 to 27 April 1995, considered, among other issues, the situation in Burundi.

Following their exchange of views, the Ministers adopted the following statement:

"The Ministers expressed concern over the latest developments in Burundi, which have been marked by the escalation of violence triggered by some organized militias, causing immense human suffering and extensive material damage. They stressed that the responsibility for maintaining peace and security in Burundi lies primarily with the people and the Coalition Government established on the basis of the Convention of Government signed on 10 September 1994. They expressed support for the ongoing efforts of the Government of Burundi to effect national reconciliation through confidence-building programmes among the various components of society. They underscored the crucial role that could be played by the international community and the neighbouring countries in bringing about lasting peace in Burundi. In that regard, the Ministers commended the initiatives taken by the leaders in the subregion, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at ministerial level, the recent good offices missions of the United Nations Security Council and all the humanitarian assistance offered to the Government of Burundi in its efforts to alleviate the suffering of the people, particularly internally displaced

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or repatriated persons. The Ministers noted the heavy burden of refugees on neighbouring countries and the need to find a durable solution. They called upon the international community to intensify their support for the Government of Burundi and regional initiatives in their endeavours towards national reconciliation and stabilization of the country. In this context, they endorsed the United Nations Security Council President's statement of 29 March 1995 (S/PRST/1995/13), which, inter alia, called upon all States, in particular countries neighbouring Burundi, to deny any sanctuary or assistance to the extremist elements within and outside Burundi, and to continue taking all possible measures to ensure that those elements are prevented from carrying out any kind of destabilizing activities from their territories. Furthermore, the Ministers called on all the parties in Burundi to intensify their efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation and restoring national unity, which has been seriously undermined.

"The Ministers noted with satisfaction the outcome of the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, convened from 14 to 17 February 1995 at Bujumbura, and called for the effective implementation of the programme of action adopted by the Conference. They called on the international community and neighbouring countries to reinforce further their coordinated and integrated responses and to strengthen appropriate links and complementarity among the various programmes adopted to resolve the plight of refugees. The Ministers confirmed that States hosting large numbers of refugees should receive the maximum possible assistance from the international community in order to ease their economic difficulties and to facilitate their voluntary repatriation, taking into account the humanitarian and non-political nature of such assistance."

These views expressed by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries reflect perfectly the position of the Government of Burundi.

The United Nations Security Council may wish to translate the views expressed by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries into action, for instance, by assisting the Government of Burundi in its efforts to disarm and disband the militias and other illegal armed organizations that are not only undermining the peace and security of Burundi but also putting all the countries of the region at risk.

The Coalition Government in Burundi is determined to put an end to the militarization of Burundi society. However, its efforts, no matter how vigorous, will be entirely successful only if accompanied by concerted international action. The United Nations Security Council should rapidly devise a strategy stemming the illegal supply of weapons in the region. This arms traffic is in fact arming the extremists who maintain the militias and other armed gangs involved in the destabilization of Burundi.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 26 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tharcisse NTAKIBIRORA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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10 May 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose a paragraph referring to the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the three Western States, which appeared in the communiqué issued by the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 25 to 27 April 1995.

This is a clear and frank expression of support by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement for the position of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the dispute between it and the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France, as is the request for the lifting of the sanctions imposed upon it by the Security Council as a result of resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993). These sanctions have significantly damaged the lives and property of the Libyan people, as well as causing serious losses to neighbouring peoples.

This expression of the will of the more than 111 States members of the Non-Aligned Movement, which has previously been supported by numerous international and regional organizations, forces us to ask the Security Council who adopted these resolutions. Who is it who insists on maintaining them? All these States, which represent the majority of the Members of the United Nations, are requesting the immediate lifting of the sanctions, the use of the methods laid down in the Charter of the United Nations to resolve the dispute and the application of international laws and practices. They are calling upon the Western States concerned in this dispute to respond to the positive initiatives made by the Jamahiriya, such as its agreement that its accused citizens should have a fair and impartial trial on neutral ground to be agreed by all parties through direct discussions under United Nations auspices.

If the Security Council does indeed represent all the States Members of the United Nations, why does it not respond to the call from these countries, which make up the majority of United Nations Members? Or does the Security Council in fact only represent the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France?

We are waiting to hear clear answers to these questions.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mohamed Abulgassem AZWAI
Permanent Representative

Annex

41. The Ministers expressed their deep concern over the human and material losses sustained by the Libyan Arab people and by neighbouring States as a result of the sanctions imposed pursuant to Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993). They affirmed that the escalation of the crisis, the threatened imposition of additional sanctions and the use of force as a way for States to deal with each other constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and international laws and precepts. They urged the Security Council to lift the air embargo and other measures imposed on Libya, in response to the resolutions adopted by regional organizations on the dispute. They expressed their solidarity with Libya and called upon the three Western States involved to respond to the positive initiatives calling for dialogue and negotiations and a fair and impartial trial of those accused, to be held in a neutral country agreed upon by all parties.

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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I am writing to you to inform you that today, 10 May 1995, at 1305 local time, the Muslim forces from Bosnia and Herzegovina shelled the town of Mali Zvornik in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. As a result of the shelling, one person was killed and two were wounded.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will not tolerate aggression against its territory. In the future, exercising its legitimate right to self-defence, in such or similar cases, it will be compelled to respond adequately in order to protect its territory and population against aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1995 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to you concerning the letter of the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to you (S/1995/339) on 28 April 1995 and, upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

Referring to Security Council resolution 990 (1995) on the modalities of the mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Force (UNCRO), the representative of Croatia again advanced flagrant accusations, in an arbitrary and tendentious manner, against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its alleged involvement in, and the responsibility for, the problems faced by Croatia. Such senseless claims highlight once more the chauvinist and warmongering policy of the Croatian authorities against other peoples, in the first place against the Serbs in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a whole.

It is indeed ironic that Croatia, which effected its anti-constitutional and forcible secession from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, committed genocide against the Serb people and applied a consistent policy of ethnic cleansing, should state that "... 250,000 non-Serb and 125,000 Serb citizens of Croatia ..." have "... been displaced as a result of Belgrade-inspired and supported aggression against Croatia" when it is widely known that in the territories under Croat rule there are less than 100,000 Serbs as compared to 350,000 in 1991. On top of that, according to the official records, there are more than 600,000 refugees in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, out of which there are almost 200,000 Serbs from Croatia, which supports the claim that this ethnic cleansing is a result of Croatia's aggressive policy that threatens the basic existential, national and human rights of the Serbs in those territories.

Aware of those facts, the international community, by the decision of the Security Council, deployed the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in order to protect the Serb population certainly not from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia but from Croatia itself and to ensure the conditions for the peaceful resolution of all disputed questions through negotiations.

The conflict in Croatia came about solely because the human and other rights of the Serbs in the Republic of Serb Krajina were denied and because the Serbs were erased from the Constitution as a constituent nation - the status they enjoyed in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - and were turned into a national minority without any rights whatsoever, the same one that during the Second World War was exposed to unprecedented atrocities, ethnic cleansing, forced conversion and assimilation.

That the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia does not have territorial pretensions against any neighbouring country, including Croatia, is supported by the declaration of its Assembly of 27 April 1992, in which it is explicitly stated that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia does not have territorial pretensions against any country. Moreover, the conflict between the Republic of Serb Krajina and the Republic of Croatia is unfolding in the areas that are not adjacent to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is solely interested in having the parties to the conflict reach a peaceful solution through negotiations. The positive role in this regard of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been acknowledged by the international community. Owing to such efforts of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, tangible results had already been achieved before the latest aggression of Croatia against the Republic of Serb Krajina.

Particularly absurd is the Croatian allegation that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is an aggressor, as it is a well-known fact that, at the time of the military hostilities in 1991, triggered by Croatia's secession, the then Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), as the sole legitimate military power of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, served to separate the conflicting parties and that it withdrew from those territories before Croatia gained international recognition. Such an allegation is particularly malicious since the relevant Security Council resolutions and the reports of the Secretary-General have long ago confirmed that the Army of Yugoslavia had indeed withdrawn from the crisis areas of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The letter alleges that the situation in Croatia is not a result of a lack of human, i.e. minority, rights but of a territorial expansion of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and that minority rights are being used as a pretext for aggression. However, such allegations have been challenged by the events in the past few days when Croatia undertook atrocious aggression against the Republic of Serb Krajina. Civilians, women and children, fleeing the Croatian aggression, have been deliberately targeted in the latest brutal drive of ethnic cleansing, whose goal was not only to conquer the Serb territories but to discredit the UNCRO operation in those areas. Croatia resorted to the well-known scenario by inverting the role of the aggressor and that of the victim and has accused the Serbs for all it has done against the Serb population in Croatia.

The letter alleges that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia "remains responsible for the tragic and costly consequences in Croatia". This is, in fact, a mere attempt to shift Croatia's own well-established responsibility to the State that represents continuity of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from which Croatia seceded forcibly and contrary to all international

norms. In doing so, Croatia now seeks to deny the right of the Serb people, who have lived in those areas for centuries and enjoyed the status of a constituent nation ever since 1918 when Yugoslavia came into being to defend their homes from aggression. The Serbs in Croatia are portrayed as newcomers and foreigners whose only right is to leave their homeland and thus succumb to the heinous Croatian practice of ethnic cleansing.

It is said in the letter that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must be held responsible for the success or failure of the border control mechanism proposed by the Secretary-General and that the existing regime of United Nations sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should be linked with the successful monitoring of the border control established by Security Council resolution 981 (1995). That is the height of hypocrisy and irony, whose aim is to discredit totally the work of the Security Council and impose inadequate solutions contrary to the results achieved so far. This reconfirms that Croatia wishes to generate confusion by introducing absurd elements in its statements to water down otherwise unambiguous principles for the functioning of United Nations peace operations. It also wishes to have the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expanded on account of Croatia's own problems, which it is obviously not capable of resolving.

It is more than evident that the aggression and genocide against the Serb people in the Republic of Serb Krajina and the Republic of Croatia continues unabated and according to a plan. It seriously threatens the peace process and undermines the active and peaceful policy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by directly fanning the flames of war in the territory of the Republic of Serb Krajina and by crushing all efforts of the international community aimed at finally resolving the conflicts in those territories.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.